NEW-YORK. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1872.

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WASHINGTON.

* THE ARKANSAS CONTEST. SENATOR RICE FAVORS AN INVESTIGATION AND SENATOR CLAYTON OPPOSES IT. (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE)

Washington, Dec. 20.—Senator Rice's resotution for the appointment of a Special Committee to go to Arkansas during the recess, and investigate the al-leged election frauds in that State was debated an bour this morning, but no vote upon it was taken. Rice has for several days been attempting to secure action on this resolution, but he has been met at every step with obreading of the journal in order to get the floor, but Senators who countenanced this parliamentary trick in order to accomplish an end unworthy of the Senate two weeks age, objected to it to-day. Later in the merning, Mr. Edmunds offered a resolution calling for information in regard to the expenses of an Indian war in Washington benally gave Rice an opportunity to move his resolution as an amendment. In doing so he said that he had no desire to depate the question if the Sen-ate was ready to vote. Elmunds remarked that there would be a great deal of debate, thus forcing Rice to an explanation of the state of affairs which, in his sary. He said that after the registration of voters had been completed, the names of about 30,000 Liberal voters were stricken from the list on various pretenses. Some of these names were removed at the time the rolls were revised, and many more afterward, without any prefor Grant were returned which were never cast at all. In order to preserve legal cyldence if the Liberal ticket should be defeated through the refusal to the 30,000 of the right to vote, outside pells were opened at many precincts where persons holding registration certificates, and refused the right to vote at the regular polis, might deposit their ballets. At the close of the election, said Rice, when the returns were made, Brooks, the Liberal candidate for Governor, was found to be elected by 3,000 majority, without counting the outside polls or throwing out the filegal Grant votes. In order overcome this, be continued, the Clayton party had thrown out a great number of precincts where the Liberals had large mejorities, and returned mejorities in others greater by far than the entire registered vote. He suspected that the Secretary of State in giving tificates of election to members of the Legislature would recognize Clayton men, where crais had been honestly elected, and as Legislature canvassed the vote it would declare Baxier, the Clayton candidate for Governor, and his associates on the same ticket, elected. The Liberals had called a mass meeting, to be held at Little Rock. Jan. 4, and had requested all to bring in the returns of the election in their several di-tricts. If it appeared that Brooks was honestly elected, Rice said, they prohand, Hadley, the present Governor, had called upon the President to send Federal troops into the State, and had issued a circular to the commanders of the militia, ordering them to recruit their forces and hold themselves in readiness to be called out at my time. Mr. Rice desired to have a Senate Committee at Little

Rock when the Legislature met in order that the truth in regard to affairs in that State might be known to Congress and in order that peace might be preserved. have a restraining influence. Clayton, in his reply, first attempted to ridicule the purpose of the resolution, remarking that perhaps the Schate had better appoint a Standing Committee to remain in Arkansas all of the time and investigate all allegations made. He then gave what purported to be a summary of the laws to prove that the State authorities were proceeding in a legal manner, and denied in icto the charges that his friends had committed francis in the election. He would prefer to have a Committee go to Little Rock when Rice's friends were not there in a body, but did not think it necessary to have any Committee at all. The debate continued for an hour and then went over.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL. EXIGAVAGANT PLANS FOR BEAUTIFYING WASH-

INGTON. [BY TILEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, Friday, Dec. 26, 1872. Bome time last Sommer a Commission was appointed under an act of Congress with instructions to examine the water front of the cities of Washington and Georgetown and report a plan for improving the channel. This mission, which has sent to the House the results of its labors, includes two of the members of the famous Board of Public Works, the body which has astonished the country and alarmed the tax-payers by the magnifisence of its projects for the improvement of Washington.
Tag Commission appear to have tried to rival the Board. the projects they recommend are certainly superb. the intervening space between it and the shore. This, then think, would cost \$0.00,000, but they have faith to Alexandria that at which passes over it, and run a raffero a sloin his heat. They also suggest a new bridge over the America Burer at the Nary-Yard, and they propose to enhance the arsanal grounds by filling in the stream to the cast wird, and when this is done they fink it would be a good thing to save the arsanal and the Navy-Yard charge places. He cale all this, they recommend the east the other transfer grounds, and the building of a spheadral new observatory. To accomplish all these magnificant results the Commissioners' estimate will require a for a religious transfer to make a becausing.

UNHAFFY RESULTS OF LEGISLATIVE DILATORI-"There ought to be a National Convention to consult as to the best means of making the Senate a practical body," was a remark overheard in the gallery, to-day, while to grave men were for nearly two hours of prectous time attached the menacutous question whether a rection to discharge a Committee lation such as a contemporated by the rules of the Senate, and whether, therefore, it can be entertained on the name day it is effected. Meanwhile thousands of poor people are on the very verge of starvation because the than they have made provision to meet them, and because Congress seemed unlikely to get time to pass a bill to give them relief. After this legislative quibble was settled, the Squate, under the lead of Edmunds, amended the Deficiency bill upd passed it. The parliamentary ques tions raised are of little consequence, but the question whether the till, in its unfinished condition, will be of any use during the holiday recess is one of great moment to those who will be without bread to-morrow morning. The state of the case is tais: The Board of Public Works having exhausted their ready money have continued their wour for several months, employing about 2,000 laborers, without funds to pay them. They depended, first, upon about 2,000,000 of taxes not yet collected, and, second, on the FL 20,000 which the Government is bound in equity though not in law to pay. The taxes are not yet due, and there was no assurance when the work was some that Congress would make the appropriation asked for. Or course, the contractors could not be paid, and they in turn could not pay pay is forthcoming. The bill passed to-lay cannot become a law until after the recess, but it is hoped that congress will finally passed to-lay cannot become a law until after the recess, but it is hoped that congress will finally passed to-lay cannot become a law until after the recess, but it is hoped that congress will finally passed to-lay cannot become a law until after the recess, but it is hoped that congress will finally passed to-lay cannot become a law until after the recess, but it is hoped that congress will finally passed to-lay cannot become a law until after the recess, but it is hoped that congress will finally passed to-lay cannot be the congress will finally passed to do the congress will finally passed to do the congress will finally passed to carry them over. If this is not done there must be great authoring in the District within a few days. any are during the holiday recess is one of great moment

THE COTTON TAX REFUNDING SCHEME. House Committees of Claims and Ways and Means both have jurisdiction over the question of refunding the gotton tax. The first bills for this purpose, introduced last session, were referred to the Claims Committee, and certain persons interested in the scheme filed a number of documents there, and indicated their purpose to argue the question and ask a decision. Finding the Committee evidently heatile to the project, they had a bill mireduced and reterred to the Ways and Means Committee toward the close of the session. Finkelnburg and Serr were appointed a sub-committee to look into the ubject, but no further progress was made until a few

he Committee, and made a preliminary argument in upport of the claim. On the surface the claim has a plausible and deceptive appearance of justice. The tax a seriainly a grievously oppressive one to put upon a

people whose only property was their lands, which had just been devastated by a ruinous war, and besides the just been devastated by a ruinous war, and besides the constitutionality of the law levying the tax was questionable. It to refund the tax would benefit the planters who bore the burden of it something might be said in its favor. But the receipts for its payment are nearly all held by the cotton shippers and factors in the principal scaports of the South. The planters shipped their cotton to them and they paid the tax and deducted it from the amount placed to the planters' credit; or they bought it tax unpaid. The money would mostly go into the hands of these merchants and factors, if the sixty-eight millious collected should be refunded, and few of the planters would receive anything. The concentration of the claims in a few hands will make it practicable for their owners to combine and bring a force to bear on Congress to secure their payment, which there is great reason to fear will overcome all obstacles.

WASHINGTON NOTES. IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE!

Washington, Friday, Dec. 20, 1872. The members who predicted yesterday that the House would be without a quorum to-day, took pains to justify their prediction by leaving for home in the morning trains. About 90 members were all that mustered in the hall at the hour for the beginning of the session. The want of a quorum was soon developed, and the only sensible thing to do was to adjourn forthwith. A ma-jority, however, stubbernly insisted on a call of the jority, however, stubbernly insisted on a call of the House, but after two hours spent in dilatory motions, and in voting down motions to adjourn, they became convinced that there were not members enough to be found in the city to make the namber requisite, and they then consented to an adjournment. There was some expectation that the Deficiency bill would puss the Senate without amendment, and one object in holding the House together was to enable the Speaker to sign it, in order that it might become a law next week, on the return of the President. Prominent members thought that the bill could be enrolled, and receive the Speaker's signature, without the presence of a quorum, but Mr. Blaine held that this would be "business" within the meaning of the rules, and could not be transacted unless a quorum were in the hall.

The Senate Finance Committee adjourned its session,

The Senate Finance Committee adjourned its session, to-day, for the holidays, without coming to any conclusion as to the various financial propositions now before it. The main questions which will occupy the attention of the Committee the remainder of the session relate entirely to an approach to a resumption of specie payment

Representative Porter of Virginia introduced to-day a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Consti-tution providing for the election of President and Vice-President by a direct vote of the people; and also a joint resolution providing for the election of Senators by a direct vote of the people, both of which were referred to the Judiciary Committee. Both these propositions have grown to rapidly in favor of late that they will undoubtedly be among the leading questions with which the next Congress will have to deal. Like most other projects for important new legislation, they are introduced now only to bring them before the public for discussion.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.] William O. Avery, one of the oldest and most efficient elerks of the Internal Revenue service, and who has for several years been chief of the appointment division of that office, has been appointed Chief Clerk of the Inter-nal Revenue Burean, in accordance with the provisions of the bill recently passed by Congress.

The Senate in Executive session, to-day, confirmed the

following nominations:

DEFICIAL TABLES OF MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TIDES PREPARED IN ADVANCE BY THE COAST SURVEY-COMPLETE PREDICTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1873.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Dec. 13, 1872. DEAR SIR: With regard to the state of the discussions of the tidal observations of New-York Har-bor, and the practicability of constructing a short table of maximum and minimum tides, such as has been con-structed for Boston Harbor, which will be useful to navigators in New-York Harbor and vicinity, I have the

honor to submit the following report:

A partial and preliminary discussion only, as ret, of
the tidal observations of that harbor has been made, from which the mean range and the establishment of the port and the nalf-monthly inequality have been approxmately determined. These are sufficiently accurate for any practical purposes, and although none of the other inequalities have been determined, yet they are not necessary to make out a complete table of the principal variations of the tides for future use, which shall have all necessary accuracy. As the astronomer, with the knowledge of a few elements, can predict the metions of a planet or comet, or as the comparative anatomist, from a single joint, can reconstruct the whole animal, so any one well acquainted with the tidal theory, with the knowledge of a single constant, understands the type of the tide and the ratios of the different inequalities, and can predict with sufficient accuracy all the variations necessary to be known by navigators. This important constant is known from the range of the luni-tidal inter val, which has been determined for New-York Harbor. This range is almost precisely the same as that of Boston Harbor, though only half as great as in European ports generally. This indicates that the type of the tide at the two places is the same, so that all that is necessary in regard to the highes of the semi-diarnal tide is to reduce everything in the ratio of the mean ranges of the tides in the two ports. The coefficient of the diurnal tide at New-York has never been determined, but as this tide is about of the same order at Liverpool, at Brest, and at Boston, and is small everywhere in the North Atlantic Ocean, we can safely assume that it is about the same also in New-York Harbor.

Upor	these	princi	plea I ha	ve cons	structed	the :	follow-
ing							
TABLE	OF M	AXIMU	M AND	MINIM	CM TIDE	s FO	R THE
1.00	40.00	-33.5	YEAR				
Date			C.	Date	A-	B,	C
	fee		fest.		foot.	ourse.	fect.
Jan.	123	1 1.23	-0.30	July	31.64	0.76	-0.15
Jan.	91.9		+0.08	July	132.66	1.23	-0.39
Jan.	132.6	9 0.07	+0.71	July	202.05	0.95	+0.69
Jan.	211.7	1 0.79	-0.27	July	232.13	0.98	+0.72
Jan.	302.9		-0.35	Ank.	21.70	0.79	-0.42
Feb.	71.8	0.84	+0.61	Aug.	102.87	1.33	-0.36
Feb.	12. 2.0	1 0.97	+0.43	Aug.	181.86	0.86	+0.67
Feb.	201.7	7 0.82	-0.46	Aug.	232.10	0.97	+0.39
Feb.	27. 3.0		-0.14	Sept.	11.72	0.89	-0.56
March			+6.57	Sept.	8.,3.03	1.41	-0.09
March	152.1		-0.06	Sept.	151.72	0.80	+0.54
March	211.8		-0.54	Sept.	222.14	1.00	+0.00
March			-0.02	Bept.	301.76	0.82	-0.54
April	61.5	9 0.74	+0.47	Oct.	73.03	1.41	+0.20
April	15 2.2		-0.39	Oct.	141.64	6.76	+0.42
April	201.9		0.47	Oct.	24	1.02	-0.46
April	262.8		+0.26	Oct.	201.87	0.87	-0.40
May	61.5		+0.35	Nov.	62.89	1.34	+0.55
May	142.8	9 1.11	-0.51	Nov.	131.66	0.75	+0.15
May	192.0	5 0.95	-0.26	Nov.	222.26	1.65	-0.61
May	25.,2.5		+0.49	Nov.	272.04	0.95	-0.26
June	4. 1.5		+0.05	Dac.	42.61	1.21	+0.72
June	1324		-0.53	Dec.	121.61	0.75	-0.02
June	19 2. 2	4 1.04	+0.27	Dec.	222.41	1.12	-0.65
June	232.2		+0.64	Dec.	282.21	1.03	+0.31
	O TOMORROWS		21		to send	diame	akit fa

In this table A is the hight of the semi-diurnal tid above mean level, to which 2.22 feet must be added for

shove mean level, to which 2.27 feet must be added for the hight above mean low water.

B is the ratio of the semi-diurnal tide to the mean tide, indicated by unity in that column.

C is the effect of the diurnal tide upon the hight of high water, which must be substracted from, or added to A, according to the sign (minus or plus), to get the com-plete hight of high water next following the moon's upper transit. For lower transits the signs of C must be recovered.

the tides will be unusually large, and when they will be comparatively small. For the date on which the numbers in column B are large, and for one or two days be fore and after, the tides will be large, and when the numbers are small the tides will be proportionably small. This column can be used in this way, with nearly equal This column can be used in this way, with nearly squal accuracy, along the whole Atiantic coast, but the column A, which gives the absolute hight above mean level, and the double of it the whole range of the tide can be used only in New York Harbor.

The tidal theory thowa that all tidal currents are exactly proportional to the amplitude of the tides. The numbers, therefore, in column B become a complete index to the strength of all tidal currents. If, then, there

should be a Seylla and Charybdis in any strait leading to a modern port, where the vessel is hable to be dashed against a dangerous rock on the one hand, or to be carried into a dangerous whirlpool on the other, in consequence of tidal currents, the navigator of any vessel hable to be endangered by such currents, and having occasion to pass such a place, should first examine column B in the preceding table, and if the time is at or bear any date when the number is large he should exercise unusual caution, for the currents then will be found to be unusually strong. The mean maximum velocity of what is called the flood current at Hell Gate is 8.5 miles an hour, and it occurs seven hours after the moon's transit. On the 8th of September it is seen, from the corresponding number in column B, that the tidal currents at that time, and for a day or two before and after, will be increased about four-tenths above the nverage, so that about 9 o'clock, morning or evening, which will be about seven hours after transit, the velocity of this current, at or near that date, will be about twelve miles per hour instead of 8.5 miles. The same will be the case on or near the 7th of October, and the currents will be thus increased in a somewhat less ratio, once or twice a month throughout the rest of the year. The table above may also be useful to farmers on the sca-coast having meadows liable to be overflowed by high tides. By reference to column B it is seen that during the Summer the numbers are very large once a month only, and that between these times they scarcely at any time come up to the neutrons. The prof. Benj. Petrce, Sup. U. S. Coast Survey. des. Very respectfully yours, To Prof. Benj. Pelree, Sup. U. S. Coast Survey

OBITUARY.

GEORGE PEABODY PUTNAM.

George Peabody Putnam, the well-known onbitsher, died suddenly at 5:05 p. m., yesterday, at the bookstore of G. P. Putnam & Co., at Fourth-ave. and Twenty-third-st. He had been at his place of business during the greater part of the day, and appeared to be in remarkably good spirits. In the afternoon he went out, but soon returned. About an hour afterward, while exhibiting a book to a gentleman, he suddenly fell to the floor, striking his head against a projecting shelf in his descent. An outery was made, and Mr. Putnam was raised from the floor and placed on one of the book counters of the store. dispatched for a physician. In a short time Drs. Ferguson and Brink appeared, but only to discover that life was extinct. In their opinion, death resulted from apoplexy. The Rev. W. H. Van Doren, with whom Mr. they were looking at the "Gallery of American Landscape," a book published by the firm, and white taiking, the publisher turned away abruptly, as if faint, then endeavored to rally, and finally, with a deep groan, sank to the floor. Two sons of Mr. Putnam were in the store at the time.

Mr. Putnam was born of New-England ancestry at Brunswick, Me., on Feb. 21, 1814, and was consequently in the 69th year of his age. He obtained a comm school education only in his native place and Boston, and, at the age of 14, came to New-York, and entered as a clerk the book-store of Daniel Leavitt, at that time one of the largest dealers in this city. He afterward entered the empley of John Wiley, whose partner he became about 1810. In 1841 he went to London as representative of the firm, and remained there seven years in charge of the Euglish branch of the house. He was one of the first to build up the business of importing English books, a business which has since been largely developed, and he was probably the first to introduce the sale of American publications into England. During his sojourn in London he wrote and published a book cailed "American Facts," which, by giving a great deal United States, contributed greatly to produce a better understanding and appreciation of this country in En glish minds. This work was a source of considerable pride to Mr. Putnam from the beneficial influence he felt it had exerted abroad. His most important literary work was the "World's Progress; or, Dictionary of Dates," which he began at the age of 14 and completed when 22; revising it, however, from time to time, to keep the record even with the time. The last revision, just finished, brings it down to date, and constitutes his

Mr. Fatnam returned to New-York from London in 1848, and soon afterward dissolved the partnership with Mr. Wiley and engaged in business by himself. He soon began the publication of Washington Irving's works-his most important enterprise, if the character and numher of the volumes, their extensive sale and wide influ-ence are considered, and this proved a very successful venture. Among other various standard works which he has published are the writings of J. Fenimore Cooper, Bayard Taylor, Charles Lamb, Thomas Hood, John P. Kennedy, Edgar A. Poe, and others. One of his early publishing enterprises was a library of reading, in 25 cent volumes, selected from the best authors, whereby he hoped to bring them within the reach of all classes. This undertaking was only partially successful in a business point of view, but he was partial to the idea till his death. Mr. Putnam early interested himself in the production of fine illustrated books, publishing, among others, the "Book of American Scenery." In 1852, with the assistance of George William Curtis and James Briggs, and others, he established Putnam's Magazine, the monthly in this country then was, a strictly American magazine. It met with immediate success, and in 1856, while still prospering greatly, was sold to other publishers, who failed in the fluancial crisis of 1857, when the publication of the magazine was suspended. In 1863, ector of Internal Revenue, a position which he held till 1866, when, in conjunction with his sons, he formed the publishing house of G. P. Putnam & Sons. The Magazine was refletablished in 1867 and continued till 1870,

Keelbace's Monthly. tury Club, and was for several years Chairman of the Art Committee of the Union League Club. He has also been very active in the organization of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, of which he has been honorary Superintendent during the past year, beside being busly engaged on the Committee for the preparation of a repre-sentation of American Art at the Vienna Exposition

Mr. Putnam not only held a conspicuous position in the trade of which he was an honored member, but sustained relations of futionacy and friendship with many of the most distinguished men of letters of the day. He was the publisher of Fenimore Cooper and Washington Irving, and the connection thus established with those lustrious writers subsequently ripened into a cordial illustrious writers subsequently ripened into a corner and confidential companionship, which remained fresh and unimpaired until the day of their death. He was himself an author of indignatable merit, especially in the department of history and statistics, and his popular manuals on these subjects have obtained a highly favorable reputation as useful books of reference. During his protracted residence in England, he wrote a piquant reply to Charles Dickens's "American Notes," which excited not a little attention as a defense of the people of this country against the criticisms of the vehement novelist. Mr. Putnam was among the first to encourage the early literary aspirations of Mr. 18ayard Taylor, who was largely indeuted to his influence for the smitable production of his works before the American public. He was deeply interested in the progress of literature, and, and elegant culture in this country, to which tew men have lent more judicious and efficient aid, or surrounded it with a more kindly and genial atmosphere. Eminently social in his disposition, he had the gift of facile and forcible utterance, and had long been in the habit of addressing public or festive reunious with dignity and effect. His counsels were always sought on occasions of difficulty, and every intelligent man almong his acquaintance attached peculiar value to his opinions. Modest and retiring in his manners, he cherished a singular sek-respect, and never receded from his aground but through the force of conviction. He was a man of the rarest parity and sweetness of life, of strong relatious sentiment, and a model of excellence in the social and domestic relations. Mr. Putnam, though born in Maswachusetts, had as long resided in his adopted city as to be identified with her interests, and almost to be reckand confidential companionship, which remained fresh

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES. ... Samuel G. Turner, a prominent citizen and pol-das of Sorthern Pennsylvania, died at Wilkesbarre, yesterday, after a

brief illness.

About 500 coal miners, employed in the mines at and near Springsteid, Ill., street, so Thurslay, for an advance of 25 per cent. The mine-owners have descendant to redsix the demand.

The Perguson House, at Twelfth-st. and Grandave. Kaness City, was bursed or Tourslay. The lass is \$17.00. Dr. Picusing's drug store, in the hotel building, was also destroyed. Loss, \$7.00.

...The Committee, on recounting the votes for any or not Ablernes of Seaton, concluded the Mayoralty caust, restrict, and their Egares elect Henry L. Pierce by a plantity of 29 votes or Mayor Gaston.

over Major Gaston.

James E. Thompson, a wealthy farmer of Harriching, Ky, is said to have abscouded, leaving liabilities to the amount of \$47,000. Two-th-three attachments have been levied upon his farm of 700 acres on Grane River.

Two men, named Travers and Jones, supposed to be from Ashary, were run over, on Thursley night, by a helping engine, at Schenectady, N. Y. Travers was danged a quarter of a mine, and herribly mangled. Jones was hadly hurk

THE ERIE SETTLEMENT.

JAY GOULD PERFECTS THE COMPROMISE. A DISTINCTION DRAWN BETWEEN A RESTORA-TION AND AN OFFICIAL TRANSFER - THE

CONDITIONS OF THE ALLEGED COMPACT DE-NIED BY AN ERIE DIRECTOR—THE PROBLEM OF RAILROAD COMBINATIONS.

Wall-st.'s excitement over the Erie settlenent was renewed, yesterday, with even greater intensity. Orders in Erie were enormous, and brokers found themselves, at times, almost overwhelmed with them. Orders to buy and sell Eric came from all quarters, both at home and abroad, the English and Germans being very heavy dealers. At the opening of the Ex-change at 10 a.m., the attendance of members, speculators, and spectators was very large. The first transactions were very wild and at irregular prices, the stock selling simultaneously at 59, 591, 591, and 60. The price declined from these figures to 581, but almost imme ent, with subsequent fitful rallies toward the close of

If the excitement was great in this city, it was much greater in the London Stock Exchange, where the dealings were of great magnitude and were marked by rapid fluctuations. The closing price on Thurday evening was 434. Yesterday morning there was a sharp advance to 511, an appreciation of nearly 8 per cent, followed by a reaction to 493, a recovery to 503, and a late decline to 493. This decline was attributed to rumors of a break in the settlement, but this was denied by the officials on this side. The cables were burdened with telegrams to Newregard to the market and their accounts.

TRANSFERRING BUSHELS OF SECURITIES. Jay Gould arrived at the office of S. L. M. Barlow counsel of the Erre Rallway, in William-st., at about 10:20 a. m., yesterday, and immediately set to work on a number of documents which he had brought with him, Two men brought in a large box, which contained many of the certificates and transfers representing assets to the value of about \$0,000,000. There were 60 or 70 securities in all, and the papers examined filled about two bushels. They consisted of stocks, bonds, and deeds of real estate in Raude Island, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, New-York, and elsewhere. The Rhode Island property given up by Gould is supposed to be his villa on the Point at Newport. The New-Jersey title comprehends his real estate interest on the North River shore, and the Pennsylvania property is said to represent coal fields. The Grand Opera House is new the property of the Eric Railway Company, the Pisk interest having been given up by Mrs. Pisk, with a large sum of money, said to be \$100,000, for the purpose of freeing the Fisk estate from

the claims of the Eric Railway Company. During the counting of the securities and the signing of the receipts there were present a part of the time, in addition to Mr. Watson, who attended throughout, W. Butler Duncan, Thomas G. Shearman, and Mr. Travers. were closeted in the inner office. Mr. Barlow said that the Grand Opera House and lots in Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth-sts. and on the North River, valued in all at \$2,400,000, would be delivered at 7 o'clock in the even-ing, at Mr. Gould's house. He thought that Mr. Gould was disposed to end the business as soon as possible. The actual legal transfer of the real estate, embracing tracts of land in New-Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, tracts of land in New-Jersey, Onlo, and Pennsylvania, may require several weeks.

The cierks of Messrs. Fleid & Shearman, counsel for Mr. Gould, were engaged, yesterday, in drawing up the deeds of the real estate for transfer to the Eric Railway Company. These deeds were placed in the name of

Thomas G. Shearman, counsel for Jay Gould, in an inthe statements in the newspapers, to the effect that Mr. Gould had made "restitution." Such was not the case. When Mr. Gould left the administration of the Eric Rail-When Mr. Gould left the administration of the Eric Railway Company a large amount of property belonging to the Company stood in his name. He had never claimed this property, but had always expressed a willingness to restore it to the Company, provided the present administration would give him a receipt and quit claim. This was not done, and Mr. Gould, consequently, would not relinquish the property. Latterly he had been in communication with Mr. Watson of the Eric Company with the most suit-factory results. Mr. Shoarman thousant it would have been much better if Mr. Gould and Mr. Watson could have met long aro, as without any outside on could have met long ago, as without any outside ences they had made the settlement which had been

industries they had made the settlement which had been as satisfactory to all concerned.

Mr. Shearman illustrated Mr. Goodd's position regarding the property by saying that the real estate and other securities were transferred to Mr. Watson as they had been to Mr. Gould when he was President. When Mr. Watson retired from the Presidency he would be compelled in like manner to give up the property to his successor. Mr. Gould's predecessors had retained the property of the Company in their names while they were in office, and had relinquished it, like him, upon receiving proper releases. Mr. Shearman said that the figures against Mr. Gould had been magnified to twice the proper amount. For example, on the books of Smith, Gould, Martin & Co. Mr. Gould stood debtor to the Eric Railway Company about \$1,500,00, and on the on satisfactory to mark the first marks of the property by saying that the real estate and other scourines were transferred to Mr. Watson as they had been to Mr. Gould when he was President. When Mr. Watson retired from the Presidency he would be compelled in like manner to give up the property to his successor. Mr. Gould's predecessors had retained the property of the Company in their names while they were in office and had relinquished it, like him, upon receiving proper releases. Mr. Shearman said that the incores against Mr. Gould had been magnified to twice the proper amount. For example, on the books of Smith, Gould, Martin & Co. Mr. Gould stood debtor to the Eric Railway Company about \$1,600,000, and on the books of the Eric Railway Company, which had been kept under a very bad system, he stood debtor for a like amount, whereas, the facts were that the sets of books represented the same transactions, but that when added together they showed a total deleth of \$0,000,000, and on the books of the Eric Railway Company, which had been there was actually a deletioney of only \$4,500,000.

THE COMPROMISE NOT A STOCK OPERATION.

S. L. M. Barlow, when questioned in relation to allegations that the Eric directors had joined Gould for the purpose of making a successful stock combination, stated that the assertions were entirely without foundation; that the greater number of the Eric directors knew nothing about the matter until they were summoned to the special meeting on Thursday at the Grand Opera House; send that the members of the special committee did not knew of the extrement until a few minutes before the second-live should pay on the four miles of extension in that the members of the special committee did not knew of the estilement until a few minutes before the second-live should pay on the four miles of extension in least the terpert that one of the conditions of the southers, and that the cross-town lines say better than others of the same character running near the line of the conditions of the meeti

meeting.

In relation to the report that one of the conditions of the settlement between the Eric Hallway Company and Mr. Gould was that the latter should have the first market hid for 200,000 shares of the steck, with the privilege of buying them in, Mr. Barlow said that no such arrangement, to the best of his knowledge, had been made in the terms of the settlement, and it formed no part of the agreement, He had not even heard a runner to that effect until the statement appeared in the newspapers. Mr. Barlow added that he did not positively know whether Mr. Gould had bought any amount of shares of Eric stock, but said that the latter, who was such a keen operator, probably know that the payment of \$5,000,000 into the treasury of the Company would immediately enhance the value of the stock, and therefore, no doubt, locked out for his own interests. Mr. Barlow arguest that it was Gould's interest not to let those with whom he was treating know of his operations, for if he did there would be a possibility of some one's anticipating him, so that he would not secure the stock at higures that would enable him to make a profit. There was no compact with Mr. Gould regarding his opinion on maters connected with the road, although as Mr. Gould was a man of brain, and had been President of the Company for three years, his views would be of value.

No compact had been made with Mr. Gould regarding connections with other roads from the Atlantic to the

was a man of brain, and had been President of the Company for three years, his views would be of value.

No compact had been made with Mr. Gould regarding connections with other roads from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The directors of Eric had no more gone had all the control of the Pacific. The directors of Eric had no more gone had stock operations with him. Their object had been to effect a settlement for the purpose of recovering the money and property of the company. Mr. Barlow had not heard of Mr. Gould's desire to settle prior to the beginning of the last suit, and the arrest of the ex-President. If they had thought that there was a sincere desire on the part of Mr. Gould to settle, they would not have taken the trouble to bring suits to compel him to compromise. Mr. Barlow did not know of any arrangement whereby Gould was to be admitted to the direct sty, but if he had enough of stock no power could prevent him from taking a seat as director.

Mr. Barlow, when asked for a list of the securities for publication, replied that he was unable to furnish it at the present time, and could not tell when the information would be given. He stated, however, that the quantity of North-Western slock with which Gould is said to be loaded does not form any part of it. The real estate consists of 70 parcels situated in different Siakes, and the transfer will not be completed until after Christmas.

Mr. Barlow read an extract from a letter to a cor-

mas.

Mr. Barlow read an extract from a letter to a correspondent in England, adverting to the property reitaquished and to the important coal fields which originally
cost \$2,600,000, but would eventually be worth \$12,330,000

It is stated that with a third rail the Eric Company ould construct all its new rolling stock on the parrow or uniform gauge, and gradually alter the rolling stock now on hand. This third rail would first bring to the Erie

uniform gauge, and gradually after the rolling stock now on hand. This third rail would first bring to the Erie Compeny an increased business by the cars of uniform gauge roads passing over the line, and finally easible it to connect with the entire railway system of the West without breaking bulk, as its own cars could pass over other roads as soon as the Company reduced its road and rolling stock to the uniform gauge.

All sorts of rumors are in chealation regarding the prospective combinations of the Erie. There are vague reports of a combination to unite under one management the Erie, the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, the Chicago and North-Western, and the Union Pacific, which would give a continuous line from New-York to the eastern terminus of the Central Pacific Hallroad, and thereby to San Francisco. Recent developments in Erie, and the close relations of Jay Gould with the Horace F. Clark party would seem to give color to these reports. The Clark party would then have a line entirely independent of Commodore Vanderbilf, whose line would end at Buffalo, unless be made close connection with some of the Canada roads. A third rail would have to be laid on the Erie Rend to connect with the Lake Shore. While it is not certain that such a combination is contemplated, yet it is asserted that the developments slove the face Erie suit was brought stroncly favor the truth of these reports. On this theory is explained the tenacity with which the Clark party have held Union Pacific, the close relations of Clark and Schell with Gould

in the North-West movement, the discatisfaction ex-pressed by Commodore Vanderbilt at discovering that such relations existed, and other circumstances. The Eric managers are nneommunicative on these points.

TEN MILLIONS GIVEN AWAY.

VALUE OF THE FRANCHISE OF EIGHT CITY RAIL-ROADS-THE SECOND-AVE. EXTENSION.

The Commissioners in the case of the Second ave. Railway extension met yesterday at No. 40 Wall-st., to listen to the summing up of the case on the part of the city by Richard O'Gorman and his associate counsel. Mr. O'Gorman said in substance that he did not expect the railway company to pay to the city a larger amount than was just, and to that end he had labored to find out what monetary benefit would result from the extension by obtaining the views of interested as well as disinterested persons. The courts have decided that the fee of the railways is held by the Legislature in trust for the State. While the ople are the real owners of the streets they can transfer their right at any time to the Commissioners. The question is not what damage may be done to the city, but what is the advantage gained by this Company by reason of the franchise granted by the act. It appears in evidence that for 12 years the Company has been anx-lous to obtain the franchise. In regard to the value of this franchise we must take the standard of ordinary mercantile transactions. The sworn statement of the officers of the road, as filed with the State Engineer at Albany, gives the following facts:

Receipts, #559,542; expenses, \$422,500; halance, \$127,042; d interest at 7 per cent on original outlay, \$20,319; amuni income the tranchise, #106,545.

Reduce this pro rata to a distance of four miles, the length of the new extension, and the amount of benefit for that distance will be about \$10,000 a year, one half of which should be paid to the city annually.

Mr. O'Gorman was followed by his assistant who furnished the important statements and figures which ap-

The promoters of street railroads in this city at first attempted to obtain their franchises from the City Goo-eroment, and the following grants were made giving away to the corporations millions of public property, as

foliows:
Sixhave Railroad, June, 1951; Eghth-are Railroad, September, 1851; Second-are Railroad, Noromore, 1857; Taird-are Railroad, December, 1852; Soud-ary Railroad, December, 1852; Ninth-are Railroad, September, 1857; beside the New-York and Harken Railroad, December, 1851, and the flu am Raver Railroad, May, 1847.

It was then found that the city had no legal right thus to give away to corporations, for private gains, the public streets, purchased and graded at public expense; and in 1854 the Legislature by an act which appeared to be for a different purpose, by a single clause skillfully inserted, confirmed the graats theretofore made by the city. The whole business of giving away public property to corporations was thus transferred to Albany; but it was not checked until A. T. Stewart offered two millions of dollars for the franchise which the Legislature was on the point of giving away. The first actual step toward reforming this great evil, was by the last Legislature, which introduced in the bill for the extension of the Second-ave. Railroad, a clause requiring the Company to pay the city the value of the nights and privileges granted therein. The annual value of the franchise of a railroad is the net earnings less seven per cent interest on the co-t; and the inacellate value of the franchise is the sum of which that is the interest at seven per cent. To show the value of the franchise is the sum of which that is the interest at seven per cent. To show the value of the franchise is given away the following figures were presented: It was then found that the city had no legal right thus SECOND-AVE. RAILROAD.

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Gross annual earnings. 735,940 Value of I chise per mile. 145,811

SEVENTRI-AVE. AND BROADWAY RAILBOAD.
Lencth of tract, 6 miles.

Ecal cetate. \$416,956 Net earnings. \$225,515

Track and rolling stock. 472,331 Annual value of franchise. 172,611

Total value of property. 499,130 Value of franchises. 2,631,914

Gross annual carnings. 773 tod Value of franchises. 2,631,914

Englis of track, 9 miles. 573,730

Track and rolling stock. 120,900 Value of franchise. 1,141,125

Track and rolling stock. 120,900 Value of franchise. 1,141,125

Gross annual earnings. 732,630 Value of franchise per 1141,125

Gross annual earnings. 732,630 value of franchise per 116,732

DBY DEVILLANCE RAILBOAD.

crease the value of the road, bringing the value of its francise, per mile, nearer to that of the Broadway or the East Broadway and Dry Dock lines.

PRACTICAL JOKING AMONG ACTORS.

The habitues of the Tombs Police Court were astomished, yesterday morning, by the presence of the well-known actors, Edward A. Sothern and William J. Florence, who had been summoned by Justice Dow-ing for alleged intent to fight a duel. It appears that Philip Lee, the husband of Miss Nellson, complained to Mesers. Sothern and Fiorence, about a week ago, that he had found New-York very dull, and unlike London.

Philip Lee, the hissonid of Miss Neilson, complained to Messrs. Sothern and Florence, about a week ago, that he had found New-York very dull, and imilite London. They railied him upon his canni, assured him that he would flad life and enjoyment on the cast side of the city, and invited him to attend a finner party and most several "prominent residents," who, they so d, were desirone of forming his acquaintance. Mr. Lee accepted the invitation, and, a few evenings later, arcompanied them to an east-side hotel, where Dan. Bryant, Neil Bryant, Neils Bryant, Lee quietly asked an explanation from the others, and was confidentially informed that the precular actions were the result of herealtary eccentricity. Other eccentricities following, however, both on the part of Mr. Bryant and his associates, Mr. Lee became indignant. Mr. Sothein, in behaif of his fellow country ir en, profested against the proceedings with assumed carnestness. Mr. Florence, with apparent good faith, admonished Mr. Sothern hot to interfere. Nelse Seymour, pretending to be greatly incensed against Mr. Bryant, rushed upon him with a carvins-kuife. Mr. Bryant, rushed upon him with a carvins-kuife. Mr. Bryant, Indiants, India

A MURDEROUS TRAFFIC.

Coroner Herrman concluded an inquest, yesterday, on the body of Charlotte Gregory of No. 149 Sixthave., who was fatally burned with kerosene off, on Sunave, who was fatally burned with kerosene oil, on Sunday night. Two witnesses testified that the deceased was in the act of filling a lighted lamp, that the oil "suddenty paffed up," that she then dropped the lamp, when her ciothing mannally took fire. Prof. Endeman, who, at the request of the Coroner, had analyzed a sample of the oil, testified that it threw off an inflammable vapor at 76° Fabrenheit, ignified at 99°, was far below a proper standard, and very dangerous. The jury rendered a verdict against Albert F. Flanders, arocer, of No 142 Sixthave., from whom the oil had been purchased, and the Coroner issued a warrant for life arrest.

FOREIGN NEWS.

CABINET CRISIS IN SPAIN. NAMES OF THE RETIRING MINISTERS-NEW AP-POINTMENTS.

MADRID, Friday, Dec. 20, 1872. The crisis in the Cabinet, which was anticipated by the *Imparcial* on Wednesday last, has occurred. The Ministers of Finances, Public Works, and Colonies have retired. Senor Echegary has been appointed Minister of Pinances, Schor Becerra, Minister of Public Works, and Schor Mesquera, Minister of Colonies. The sitting of the Cortes yesterday was suspended in conse-

quence of the crisis.

The newly appointed Ministers were presented to the King to-day, and took the oaths of office. Selior Zorrilla had a long conference, yesterday, with Schor Rivero

POLITICS IN FRANCE.

DELIBERATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THERTY
-RESIGNATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF NANTES. PARIS, Friday, Dec. 20, 1872. The Committee of Thirty have appointed wo sub-committees, which sit separately. The members of the Committee express great desire to come to an agree-ment with the Government. The Monarchists no longer usist on confining the actions of the Committee to the relations of the Executive and the Legislature. dismissal of the Mayor of Nantes promotes this ouciliatory spirit. The Committee aiready approve of the theory of a second Chamber, but await the Government's plan for its organization before proceeding to dis-

by the Committee will be the suspengery vote power. The Assembly, to-day, unanimously voted the supplies for 1873 as estimated in the budget of the Minister of

use the matter in detail. The first subject taken in hand

All the members of the municipal government of Nantes have realgned in consequence of the removal of the Mayor. The Paris press generally regard the step taker by the President in this matter as an indication of conservative; policy. The Radical papers do not at tempt to conceal their indignation.

The Minister of the Interior is consulting with the Profest and Mayor of Lyons as to the expediency of suppressing the existing municipal government of that city, on account of the pronounced radicalism of its embers, and of dividing the city organization into soveral municipalities.

FLOODS AND STORMS ABROAD.

WHOLE COUNTIES IN ENGLAND UNDER WATER -DAMAGE BT THE OVERFLOW OF THE SEINE-VIOLENT GALES IN NAPLES-SEVERE STORM AT HALIFAX. LONDON, Friday, Dec. 20, 1872.

The late heavy storms have swollen the streams throughout England to a great hight and several of them have overflowed. Windsor and Eton are flooded. The River Frent and its affinents, the Soar and Derwent. have risen above their banks, submerging a large postion of the country in Leicester, Derby and Nottingham. In some sections of those counties only the tops of trees and Heavy landslips have occurred near Dover, and rail-

vay communication with that town is interrupted. The town of Peterborough, in Northampton County, is gooded, and many of the residents have been compelled

take refuge from the water in the upper stories of A dispatch from Laverpool says four hundred and orty-nine persons, including passengers and sallors, bave erished by marine disasters during the past ten days.

Thirty persons were lost by the sinking of the ship latchless off the coast of Northumberland County. Paris, Friday, Dec. 20, 1819. It is probable that some of the bridges crossing the river Seine in this city will be swept away by the floods.

Naples, Friday, Dec. 20, 1872. A gale of unprecedented violence swept over Naples resterday. Much dawage was done to property in the city and shipping in the bay. HALIFAX, N. S., Friday, Dec. 23.—A heavy snow-storm

has prevailed all day from the north-cast. The saowstorm has prevented the arrival of any train from the west or east since yesterday.

FOREIGN NOTES.

The Spanish Senate has definitively approved the Clergy Donation bill. The United States steamer Lackawanna er-

rived at Calcutta yesterday from Singapore via Penang. The British corvette Challenger with sail from Portsmouth to-day for the purpose of making The funeral of Viscountess Beaconsfield took place on Thursday. The remains were deposited in the

King Victor Emanuel has been indisposed

slace Thursday, having had an attack of rheumatic to ver. His physicians do not consider the filness serious The King passed a quiet night, and yesterday morning the fover symptoms had considerably diminished. A cable dispatch received at Toronto, Ont.,

states that the Privy Council in England have confirmed the judgment rendered by the Vice-Admiraty Court at Quebec dismissing the suit instituted by Redpath & Sone against the Messes, Allan, as owners of the sisanship Hinernian, by damages occasioned by the steamship Hinernian, by damages occasioned by the steamship below Montreal. The amount involved was about distance below Montreal. The amount involved was about \$46,000. The Ottawa Citizen, a Government organ,

Ine Ollaita Cilizen, a Government organ, in a review of the political situation in Canada, says it is obvious that the head of the Government may be called upon at any moment to reconstruct his Cabinet; that Mr. Howe will be very soon made Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia Province, and that his place will be filled by Mr. Archicald; that Sir. Langevin is the most capable of leading the French Canadian supporters of the Government instead of Sir George Cartier.

THE LOUISIANA CASE.

PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE OF CITIZENS. Washington, Dec. 20 .- The Louislann Comnittee, at their meeting this afternoon, agreed to issue an address to the people of the United States, setting forth the law and the facts in the case now disturbing that State, and to petition Congress for rainer when its session shall be resumed iomediately after the helidays. The Committee adjourned to meet in New-York on Monday next, the Committee having been invited by prominent men of all parties to visit New-York and lay the whole matter before the people. This afterneon the Committee went to the Capitol and paid their respects to Speaker Binine in his reception room.

Committee went to the Capitol and paid their respects to Speaker Blaine in his reception room.

After the Supreme Court adjuarmed to-day, ex-Judge Campbell and others of the sub-committee or the Louisiana delegation, had a conterpence with the judies of the Court, and gave their reasons why they mestred Associate Justice Bradley to proceed to New Orleans to review the judicial proceedings of Judge Durell. Judge Bradley, instead of going thither on his own volition, preferred that the request to do so should come from his colleagues, who took the matter under advisement. It was subsequently ascertained that the judies came to the conclusion that it now remains with Associate Judice Bradley himself to decide whether he will go to New-Orleans for the purpose in question.

THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE. MONTGOMERY, Dec. 29 .- The House perma-

pently organized to-day by the election of L. E. Parsons as Speaker; Robert Barber, Clerk; R. Whitaker (colered), Doorkeeper; and W. V. Turner, Assistant Clerk, all being Republicans. The disposition to retract former action is no longer visible. All seems to be harmonious. In the election for doorkeeper more votes were east than there-were members present. Both the candidates were Re-publicans.

A QUARANTINE STEAMER BURNED. The steamer Andrew Fletcher, owned by the

Quarantine Department, was burned early yesterday. The fire was discovered at 1 a. m., by a deck hand who on going forward to secure the boat to the deck by an additional cable, found smoke issuing from the feiting additional cable, found smoke issuing from the feiting around the steam-chest, just below the smoke-stack. Great efforts were made to stop the fire, which was found burning in the dry joiner vork, but all efforts were unsuccessful. The propeller Fenton, chartered by the Pepartment, towed the Fietcher out of the dock, and streams of water were soon directed upon the fire by the Fenton and the steam yeach Heraid. The towing hawsers were soon burned off, and the vessel was driven, in flames, by the strong north-west wind, until it ran asshore between the Quarantine handing and the ferry-house. For some time it was feared that the ferry landing would be destroyed. All efforts to scuttle the burning vessel were unavailing, and she burned to the water's edge. The Quarantine pler was on fire, but was saved by the exertious of the employes. The Staten Island Fire Department was on hand to assist, if there were opportunity, and one of the Staten Island ferry-bonts went to the dock for the same purpose.

The Andrew Fletcher was about nine years old, and had been in the Quarantine service about seven years. The engine and boilers, and some other portions will be saved, but the hull is entirely ruined. Loss, about \$20,000.